



THE NETHERLANDS ANTILLES

750

OPENBARE LEESZAAL EN BOEKERIJ

Their geography, history, and

political, economic, and social

development.

De bibliothecaris heeft zijn opvolgers in de komende eeuwen dit boek permanent buiten de algemene circulatie te houden en voor studie-doeleinden te bewaren. Het vormt een bron, welke voor historici, economen, schrijvers en anderen later van belang kan zijn.

Dr. Johan Hartog,
Bibliothecaris.

Publication of the Government
Information Service.

BIBLIOTECA NACIONAL ARUBA



3 0993 00183 732 7

Curaçao, november 1957

THE NETHERLANDS ANTILLES

Their geography, history, and
political, economic and social
development.



Publication of the Government
Information Service.

Arubiana: 750

ARUBIANA / CARIBIANA

Pa referencía.

PAR FOR FIA.

For reference.

INSTITUTO DE TABAQUE

EL TABAQUE TH. S. R. O. M.

Curacao, november 1957

THE TERRITORY, GEOGRAPHY, CLIMATE, AREA AND POPULATION OF THE NETHERLANDS ANTILLES

The Territory

The territory of the Netherlands Antilles consists of the following island-territories:

- a) the island-territory of Aruba formed by the island of Aruba;
- b) the island-territory of Bonaire formed by the islands of Bonaire and Little-Bonaire;
- c) the island-territory of Curaçao formed by the islands of Curaçao and Little-Curaçao;
- d) the island-territory of the Windward Islands formed by the islands of St. Martin (Dutch part), Saba and St. Eustatius.

The island-territories mentioned under a, b and c are also called the Leeward Islands.

The Geography

The Leeward Islands and the Windward Islands both situated in the Caribbean Sea are about 550 miles apart. The Leeward Islands are approximately 15 to 38 miles distant from the coast of Venezuela. The Windward Islands form a part of the chain of the Lesser Antilles situated between St. Thomas in the American Virgin Islands and British Antigua.

The Climate

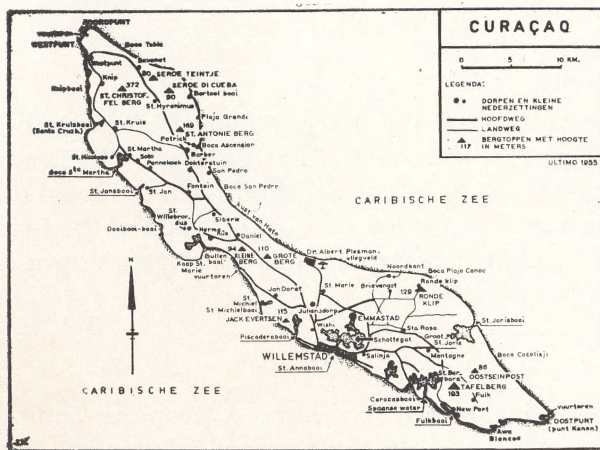
The Netherlands Antilles have a tropical climate and the average temperature in both the Leeward Islands and the Windward Islands is between 76 and 90°F, but rainfall in the Windward Islands is nearly double. The average rainfall on the Leeward Islands is 22 inches per year. The rainy season in both groups of Islands is from October to February. August and September are known as the "hottest" months, January and February as the "coolest". Variations in temperature between day and night in the Leeward Islands are larger than the annual variations. The fresh easterly trade-wind

brings a welcome coolness throughout the year with an average velocity of 16 m.p.h.

The Area

The total area of the Netherlands Antilles is 394.1 square miles divided as follows:

Curaçao	178.5 square miles
Bonaire	111.9 square miles
Aruba	70.9 square miles
St. Martin	16 square miles
St. Eustatius	11.8 square miles
Saba	5 square miles



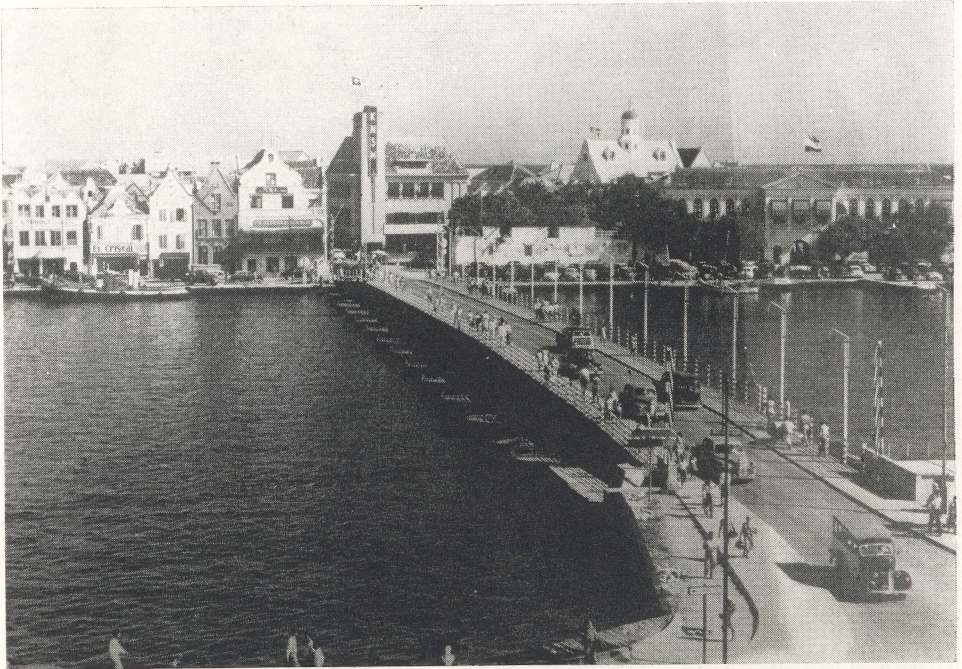
Curaçao

Curaçao is the largest of the six islands of the Netherlands Antilles. Geographically it is the middle one of the three islands of the Leeward group. It extends from north-west to south-west and is located at 69° W and $12^{\circ}10'$ N in the Southern part of the Carib-

bean. It lies 38 statute miles North of the Venezuelan coast and is 38 miles long, 7 miles broad at its widest and $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles across at its narrowest. There are several bays on the southern coast, the largest being the Schottegat, which is an excellent natural harbour basin, right on the doorstep of Willemstad, the capital, which is the seat of the Central Government of the Netherlands Antilles.

Willemstad is the 4th largest harbour in the world. The island has a volcanic base partly covered by coral reefs and has little natural vegetation other than divi-divi trees, aloos and cacti. Roughly one half of the population lives in the capital.

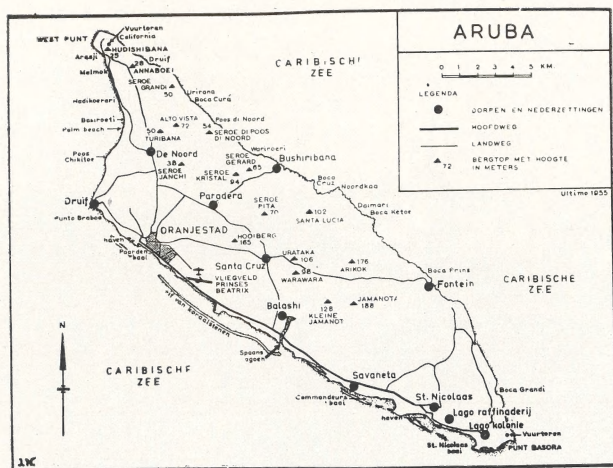
Willemstad is divided into two sections, the "Punda" and the "Otrabanda", on opposite sides of the Saint Anna-Bay, both connected by a pontoon bridge.



The pontoon bridge of Willemstad has become one of the many attractions for visiting tourists.

Aruba

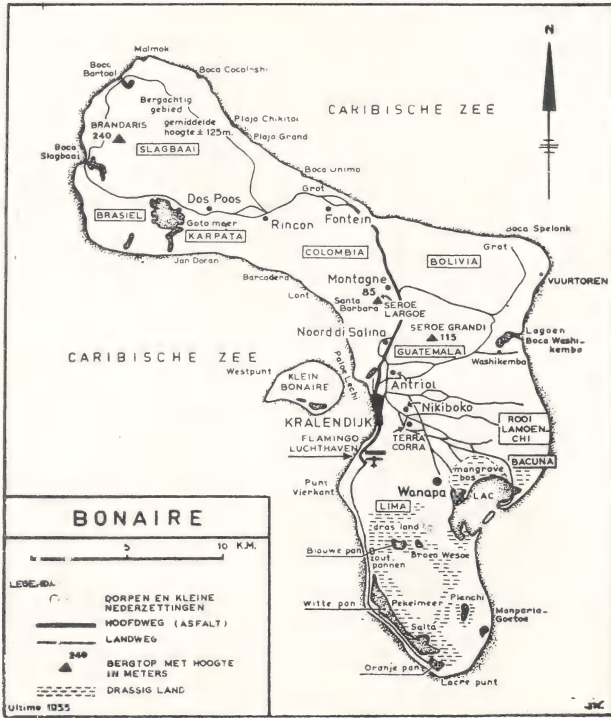
Aruba is the most western of the Leeward group and is situated between $12^{\circ}24'$ W and $12^{\circ}27'$ N in the Caribbean Sea. It lies 15 statute miles from the Venezuelan coast and is 19.6 miles long, and 6 miles at its widest point. Aruba lies 42 sea miles from Curaçao. The soil is generally rocky and has less vegetation than Curaçao. One of the island's most attractive features is its wealth of fine sand beaches, ideal for sea-bathing on the southern, wind-sheltered side. The capital, Oranjestad, has about one fifth of the total population. San Nicolas where the Lago Oil Company operates its refinery has about double the population of Oranjestad.



Bonaire

Bonaire is the second in size but the third in number of inhabitants of the Leeward Islands. Its capital, Kralendijk, lies about a quarter of an hour flying distance from Curaçao. There is a daily air communication with Curaçao by K.L.M. The salt ponds of Pekelmeer run along the south-western coast. The northern section is

mountainous; the southern part is flat, only a few feet above sea-level.

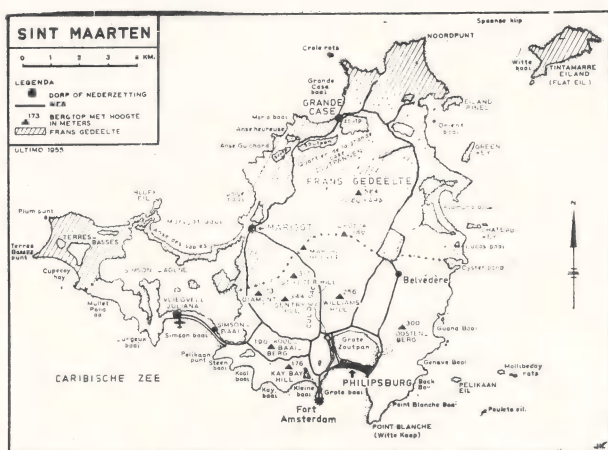


St. Martin

The Windward Islands are located in the northeastern corner of the Caribbean at 60° W and 18° N.

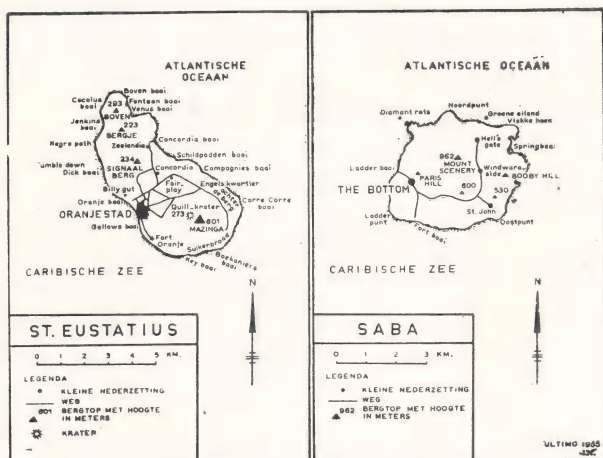
St. Martin is divided between the Netherlands Antilles and France. The northern part is French. According to a legend, the border dispute between France and Holland in 1648 was settled by letting a citizen of each country walk around the island in opposite directions. The territory covered by each man then become the property of their respective countries. The Frenchman covered more ground but the Dutchman had the good fortune to walk around the

then valuable salt ponds. In 1948 a simple monument commemorating the three hundred years of friendly relation between the two parts of the island was erected at the border line, on the road from Philipsburg to Marigot, the capital of the French territory. Otherwise, the frontier is crossed unconsciously; there are no border guards or customs inspectors and consequently no formalities. The island lies 100 statute miles east of the Virgin Islands and has the best anchorage of the three Windward Islands of the Netherlands Antilles. Philipsburg, the capital, is built on a narrow sand bar at the end of the "Great Bay", which forms a natural harbour. There are regular air connections with Puerto Rico, Curaçao, St. Kitts and Guadeloupe. The island is hilly with a pleasant vegetation.



St. Eustatius

It is the most rustic of the Windward Islands. The rocky steep terrain presents tremendous obstacles to farmers and stock raisers. Its chief town is Oranjestad, the same name as Aruba's capital. During the American Revolution, "Statia" as most Caribbeans know it, served as a point of transshipment for food, arms and clothing, destined for the blockaded colonies. On some days as many as 200 ships crowded Statia's harbours. Plantations produced tobacco, sugar cane, and other crops.



Saba

It is actually an extinct volcano rising from the sea in a broken cone to a height of 2.900 feet. Within the crater walls the vegetation is deep green with garden patches and fruit groves. Saba is therefore called the "greenest" of the three Windward Islands. The Bottom, the chief town, lies about 800 feet above sea-level and has half of the total population. A little higher than the Bottom lie the villages of Saint John, Windwardside (1800 feet above sea level) and Hellsgate.

The Population

	Population on January 1, 1956	Population on January 1, 1957
Curacao	118,858	121,198
Aruba	55,483	56,050
Bonaire	5,661	5,611
St. Martin (Neth. part) ...	1,607	1,559
St. Eustatius	1,055	1,055
Saba	1,131	1,124
Total population	183,795	186,597

In 20 years' time the population has increased with more than 100 %. In 1956 the birth-rate amounted to 32.3 per 1000 and the death-rate to 4.8 per 1000.

Due to the oil industrialisation in Curaçao and Aruba a great many workers had to be recruited from Surinam, the British West Indian islands, Madeira, Colombia, Venezuela and other countries. The population therefore consists of an important number of foreigners. Foreigners are also found in business. No less than forty-five different nations are said to be represented among the inhabitants.

As the Government is stimulating the development of the technical education, a great many of foreign workers have been replaced in recent years by local workers. The great majority of the workers are now recruited locally.

European Dutchmen are chiefly employed by the oil industry in Curaçao, the Government and some other private concerns and Americans are chiefly employed by the Lago Oil Company in Aruba.

Dutch is the official language but in addition a "lingua franca", Papiamentu, has evolved out of Spanish, Dutch and some other languages. It is spoken by those born in the Leeward Islands. Spanish is also spoken in the Leeward Islands.

The general language in the Windward Islands is English.

The Antillians distinguish themselves for their great aptitude in learning foreign languages.

The majority of the population in the Leeward Islands is Roman Catholic, while on the Windward Islands the majority is Protestant.

Besides the Roman Catholic Church and different Protestant communities there are two Jewish communities in Curaçao.

HISTORY, POLITICAL EVOLUTION AND GOVERNMENT

History

The islands of the Netherlands Antilles were first discovered by the Spaniards. Curaçao was presumably discovered by Alonso de Ojeda who made a discovering voyage with permission of the Spanish

king Charles V, and with the cooperation of Amérigo Vespucci. But it was not until 1527 that Juan de Ampues took possession of Curaçao and the two other Leeward Islands, Aruba and Bonaire. During the next centuries the Netherlands Antilles changed several times from the hands of one colonial power into another. In 1816 it definitely became a part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, when according to the Convention of London of August 13th, 1814, confirmed at the peace of Paris of November 20, 1815, it was returned by England to the Netherlands together with the other Dutch colonies, except Berbice, Demerara, Essequibo and the Cape of Good Hope.

It is perhaps worthwhile mentioning the historical fact that in 1776 Fort Orange at St. Eustatius (at that time known as the „Golden Rock”) gave the first salute by a foreign nation to the flag of the United States, flying from the brig "Andrew Doria". This historical event is commemorated by a bronze plaque presented by the late President F. D. Roosevelt in 1939.

Political evolution

Until World War II the political relationship with the Netherlands was no other than that of a colony. During the greater part of this war, when the Netherlands were occupied by Germany and afterwards Indonesia (at that time still known as the Netherlands East Indies) which was then a part of the Kingdom of the Nether-



The statue of Princess Wilhelmina in Oranjestad, Aruba.

lands, was seized by Japan, the Netherlands Antilles and Surinam were the only free parts of that Kingdom. So they had to act much

more on their own than in ordinary circumstances and became used to that situation. In the Netherlands Antilles as well as in Surinam the conviction, that the colonial system had to be ended as soon as this was possible, grew stronger and stronger. They wanted to be "master in their own house".. They wanted to enter in a new relationship with the Netherlands based on the principles put forward by H.M. Queen Wilhelmina in Her famous broadcast declaration of 7th December 1942. The speech pledged the Netherlands to confer on the populations of the overseas territories at the end of the war a greater independence and a greater share in the administration, and to call a Round Table Conference for this purpose as soon as practicable after the armistice.

The following was one of the most important passages in the Queen's speech:

"I am convinced, and history as well as reports from the occupied territories confirm me in this, that after the war it will be possible to reconstruct the Kingdom on the solid foundation of complete partnership, which will mean the consummation of all that has been developed in the past. I know that no political unity nor national cohesion can continue to exist, which are not supported by the voluntary acceptance and the faith of the great majority of the citizenry."

In 1946, after the liberation of the Netherlands, the Legislative Councils (the Staten) of the Netherlands Antilles (then still named Curaçao) and Surinam sent a joint mission to the Netherlands Government to make known the wishes of these territories with regard to a new constitutional order. The Netherlands Government promised to go as far as possible towards granting self-government to these parts of the Kingdom as the Netherlands Constitution then permitted and also to change this Constitution so as to make full self-government possible.

The first practical results were achieved in 1948 when the Constitutions of the Netherlands Antilles and Surinam were changed. The most important changes were: the introducing of general franchise for men and women, the abolishing of the system of ap-

pointment by the Governor of a certain number of the members of the Legislative Council, and the increasing of this Council from 15 to 21 members, all to be elected by the people.

In 1948 the Constitution of the Netherlands was revised as to open the way for the establishment of a new constitutional order between the territories of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. In January 1948 a Round Table Conference was held at The Hague, between representatives of the Netherlands, the Netherlands Antilles and Surinam. The result was the unanimous adoption of seventeen resolutions under which the existing relations between the three parts of the Kingdom were to be replaced by a new constitutional order, uniting these areas in a new "Kingdom of the Netherlands" under the House of Orange Nassau; it was also decided that a new overall-charter should be worked out to delineate the precise structure of the new-styled Kingdom.

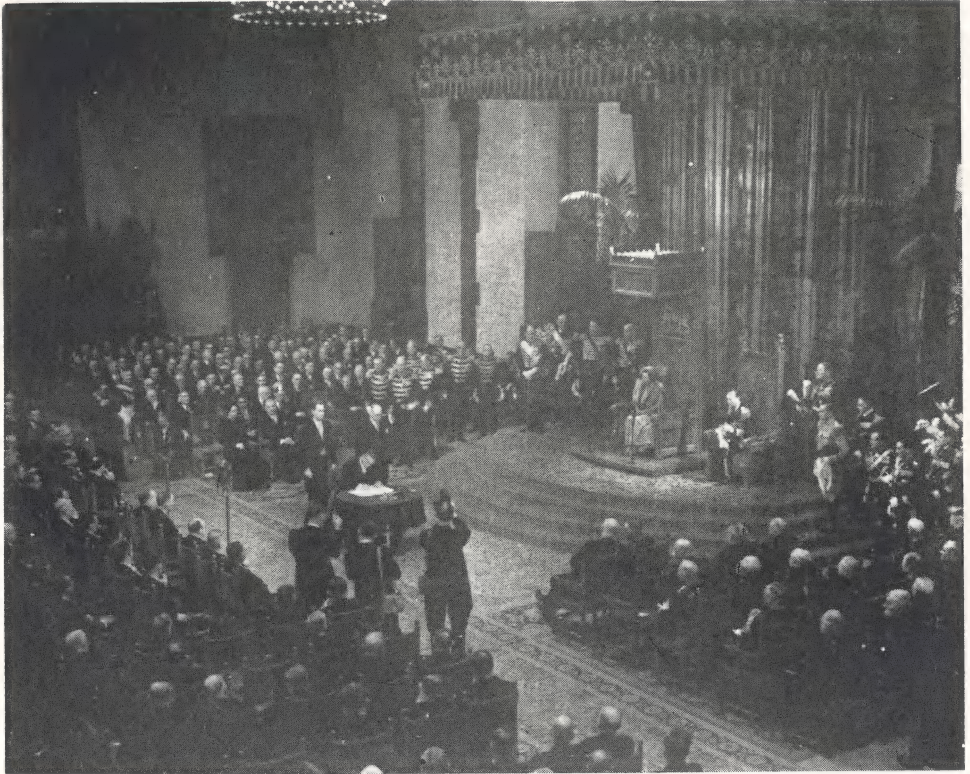
The principles adopted by the Conference were laid down shortly afterwards in the Netherlands Constitution by the above mentioned revision of 1948. A new Chapter, containing transitory provisions, was inserted in the Constitution of the Netherlands. According to one of these provisions a new constitutional order based upon the results of the consultations held and to be held with and between the representatives of the peoples had to be established in respect of the territories concerned, in pursuance whereof these territories would, autonomously, have charge of their own affairs, and would as united, co-equal partners, foster their common interests and assist each other, all of these conditions to be fulfilled under guarantee of the rule of law, fundamental human rights and freedoms and sound government. Another of these provisions stipulated that the new constitutional order had to be established by its voluntary acceptance through democratic procedure in each of the territories. Finally, the new Chapter made it possible to depart from the provisions of the Constitution to such an extent as the change-over to the new constitutional order might require, without the lengthy procedure involved in amending the Netherlands Constitution.

As at that time the Indonesian question had not yet been settled and the Netherlands Antilles neither Surinam wished to wait until the Netherlands would come to a final agreement with Indonesia, it

was decided to create a so-called "Interim Order" of Government, which was to meet the principal wishes of the Netherlands Antilles and Surinam. The "Interim Order" for the Netherlands Antilles became effective on February 7th, 1951. This "Interim Order" practically granted full autonomy to the Netherlands Antilles. For instance the Netherlands Antilles should manage their own internal affairs. For this management the parliamentary system was introduced with politically fully responsible ministers, while the Governor (besides being the representative of the Government of the Kingdom with regard to non-internal affairs) became the constitutional head of the Area Government. All internal legislation became completely free from Dutch influence. A limited list of affairs ranking as non-internal nature was agreed upon, the most important of these being Defence and Foreign Affairs. With the object of enabling the Netherlands Antilles to put forward their interests in matters which equally concern the Netherlands and Surinam, they were empowered to appoint General Representatives in the Netherlands. The Legislative Council was increased to 22 members.

After the Indonesian question had been settled, the new Constitutional order according to the Netherlands Constitution could be realized. The new Charter that had to be worked out in collaboration between the three parties would recognize the co-equality with the Netherlands of the Netherlands Antilles and Surinam. The new Charter was debated and settled in a series of conferences which started in 1952. Between the delegations of the Netherlands, the Netherlands Antilles and Surinam an agreement on the new Charter was reached in June 1954. Then followed the three parliaments' separate debates on the new order, their bill of ratification and, finally, its official promulgation on December 15th, 1954 by Queen Juliana of the Netherlands at a ceremonial assembly of the two Houses of the Netherlands Parliament with delegations of the Legislative Councils of the Netherlands Antilles and Surinam being present. Fourteen days later, on December 29th, 1954, the reorganisation of the Netherlands Kingdom, consisting henceforth of three co-equal partners, became a fact. December 15th has been proclaimed in the whole Kingdom als Kingdom Day and is an official holiday in the Netherlands Antilles. The Charter in which the new constitutional order is

laid down is officially named the Charter for the Kingdom of the Netherlands. The preamble to the Charter reads as follows:



The Minister-President of the Netherlands Antilles E. Jonckheer is signing the Charter in the "Ridderzaal" (Knights' Hall) at the Hague in the presence of Her Majesty Queen Juliana and His Royal Highness Prince Bernhard.

"The Netherlands, Surinam and the Netherlands Antilles, considering that they have expressed freely their will to establish a new constitutional order in the Kingdom of the Netherlands, in which they will conduct their internal affairs autonomously and their common interests on a basis of equality, and in which they will accord each other reciprocal assistance, have resolved by mutual consent to establish the Charter for the Kingdom as follows.....".

The new Kingdom is characterized by the principle that each of the Countries administers its internal affairs autonomously and that the three Countries are committed, on a basis of equality, to the administration of their common interests and to mutual assistance.

Therefore, the Countries themselves have the right to determine their own Constitutions. This includes the right to revise and amend them, subject only to the condition that they do not impair the interests and the general principles (human rights and fundamental freedoms) common to the Kingdom as a whole.



Minister-President E. Jonckheer is delivering a speech at the annual commemoration of "Kingdom Day" in front of the "Autonomy-Monument" at Willemstad.

A number of matters which are of equal concern to all parts of the Kingdom and require therefore to be administered in a uniform manner by organs of the Kingdom, are described in the Charter as "Kingdom Affairs". The most important of these are again *Defence* (although military service is a matter of concern for each individual country) and *Foreign relations* (although the Netherlands Antilles and Surinam have far-reaching powers which in some instances amount to a veto). "Kingdom Affairs" are the only instances, in which the three Countries have no exclusive authority. Apart from these, the Netherlands Antilles and Surinam have complete autonomy.

The provisions of the Charter determine the manner in which Surinam and the Netherlands Antilles shall share the responsibility for Kingdom Affairs within the organs in the Netherlands charged with the conduct of these matters. The organs in which they are represented are the Council of Ministers, the Council of State, and the States-General (consisting of a First and a Second Chamber). If requested by the Governments of the Netherlands Antilles and Surinam provision may also be made to add to the Supreme Court a member, an extra-ordinary member or an advisory member.



The unveiling of a statue of Her Majesty Queen Juliana at Juliana Square, Willemstad.

The highest organ of the Kingdom is the Sovereign. Owing to the Sovereign's inability to exercise His (Her) power in Surinam and in the Netherlands Antilles in person, a Governor is appointed by the Sovereign to act as His (Her) representative in these Countries.

The Governor has a dual responsibility: on the one hand he is the representative of the Queen as (constitutional) Head of the

Kingdom; on the other hand he is the representative of the Queen as Head of the Government of the Country concerned.

The Government of each Country consists of the Governor, and the Council of Ministers. The latter function of the Governor representing the Sovereign as Head of the Government of the Country concerned is considered the more important one.

Consequently, his powers and duties as such are not determined by Kingdom Statute, but by Country Legislation. The Governor is inviolable with regard to the conduct of affairs by the Government and his position vis-a-vis the members of the Council of Ministers is therefore similar to the relationship existing in the Netherlands between the Queen and Her ministers. The ministers are responsible for their policy to the Legislative Council.

Whenever the Council of Ministers of the Netherlands is dealing with "Kingdom Affairs", the Council assumes the status of Council of Ministers for the Kingdom. In that event the Ministers Plenipotentiary, appointed by the Governments of the Netherlands Antilles and Surinam, are present and participate with full voting power in the deliberations of the Council.

With regard to draft-Statutes applying to the whole, the Charter stipulates that the draft is simultaneously presented to the States-General and the Legislative Councils of the Netherlands Antilles and Surinam. These Councils discuss the draft and submit their observations. During the discussions in the States-General, the Ministers Plenipotentiary and — if the Legislative Councils of Surinam and of the Netherlands Antilles take a decision to that effect — one or more special delegates of these bodies are enabled to attend the debates in both Chambers, to furnish information and to propose amendments.

Both the Ministers Plenipotentiary and the special delegates can also propose postponement for the purpose of further consideration.

If, after the Ministers Plenipotentiary or the special delegates having voiced opposition to the draft, the Second Chamber adopts it with a majority of less than three-fifths of the number of votes cast, the discussion must be suspended and further consultations on the proposal take place in the Council of Ministers for the Kingdom.

The third Chapter of the Charter is devoted to mutual aid, consultation and co-operation between the three Countries. The partner-

ship of the Netherlands, Surinam and the Netherlands Antilles within one Kingdom implies that the Countries accord each other aid and assistance in many respects, materially and spiritually.

Of course the Charter in its present form may not prove satisfactory for all time to come. Future developments may give rise to a call for certain amendments. With this possibility in mind, it was therefore provided for indications regarding the procedure to be followed in such eventuality. Amendments can be affected only — and this is laid down as a point of principle — in accordance with the wishes of the inhabitants of the three Countries, and the form of amendment must be enacted by Kingdom Statute. The relevant legislation cannot become effective, however, prior to voluntary acceptance by the three Countries. This means that no amendment can be operated by or in any one of the Countries singly, nor can any one of them alter the constitutional order unilaterally.

Government

The Netherlands Antilles form an autonomous part within the Kingdom of the Netherlands and are united, on a footing of equality, with the Netherlands and Surinam. The Constitution of the Netherlands Antilles after having been made consistent with the new constitutional order was promulgated in April 1955. This Constitution, named "Staatsregeling van de Nederlandse Antillen", has the status of a domestic legislative regulation.

As pointed out already the Queen is Head of the Government of the Netherlands Antilles and is represented by a Governor appointed by Her. The central executive power of the Netherlands Antilles rests with the Governor and the Council of Ministers, both forming together the Government of the Country. The ministers who are appointed by the Governor with the consent of the Legislative Council, are responsible for their policy to this Council.

The central legislative power is vested in the Government and Legislative Council, the latter — called the "Staten" (States) — consisting of only one Chamber. The "Staten" consists of 22 deputies, who are elected directly according to an electoral system based on universal suffrage. In the island-territories of Curaçao and Aruba

the election takes place on the base of equal representation which means that each party secures a number of seats, in equal proportion to the percentage of votes brought out in their favour throughout the island territory. In Bonaire and the Windward Islands the only seat goes to the party on which the majority of votes are brought out. The 22 deputies are elected as follows: In the island-territory of Curaçao: 12 deputies; in the island-territory of Aruba: 8 deputies; in the island-territory of Bonaire: 1 deputy and in the island-territory of the Windward Islands: 1 deputy.

Members of the "Staten" must be Netherlanders and may be men or women.



The members of the Legislative Council.

All those of Dutch nationality who have reached the age of 23 years and are resident within the Netherlands Antilles have the franchise. Criminals, lunatics and certain others are disqualified; for certain crimes and misdemeanours there may be temporary disqualification.

The members of the "Staten" are elected for 4 years. The Governor has the power to dissolve the "Staten", subject to the condition that new elections take place within two months, and the new "Staten" be convoked to meet within 3 months.

The Governor and the "Staten" may propose new Bills. The "Staten" has the right of amending Bills proposed by the Governor. It has furthermore the right of inquiry and interpellation.

The meeting of the "Staten" is public, though it may by a majority vote decide on a secret meeting. The ministers may attend the meeting of the "Staten", but only in an advisory capacity, as a member of the "Staten" cannot be simultaneously a minister.

Every year on the second Tuesday in May the session of the



*His Excellency Governor Dr.
A. B. Speekenbrink.*

"Staten" is ceremoniously opened in a solemn meeting by the Governor. In the Speech then made by the Governor, the Government announces its projects for the coming sessional year.

Every act of the Governor with regard to internal affairs has to be covered by a responsible minister.

Governor (as from April 24, 1957) is Dr. A. B. Speekenbrink. *The Council of Ministers* is composed as follows:

Minister-President and Minister for General Affairs: E. Jonckheer (Curaçao Democratic Party),

Deputy Minister-President and Minister of Justice: Dr. S. W. van der Meer (Curaçao Democratic Party),



The Council of Ministers. Sitting (from left tot right): Dr. S. W. van der Meer, Mr. E. Jonckheer and Mr. J. E. Irausquin; standing (from left to right): Mr. C. D. Kroon, Mr. A. E. Booi, Mr. F. J. C. Beaujon and the Secretary of the Council Dr. F. P. de Vries.

Minister of Social Affairs: C. D. Kroon (Curaçao Democratic Party),

Minister of Finance: J. E. Irausquin (Aruba Patriotic Party),

Minister of Public Health and Transportation: F. J. C. Beaujon (Aruba Patriotic Party),

Minister of Education and Acting Minister of Economic and Welfare Affairs: A. E. Booi (Bonaire Progressive Party),

Secretary of the Council: Dr. F. P. de Vries.

Minister Plenipotentiary of the Netherlands Antilles in the Netherlands: W. F. M. Lampe.

The "Staten" (as constituted in December 1954): Democratic Party, 5 (government party); National People's Party, 5 (opposition); Aruba Patriotic Party, 5 (government party); Aruba People's Party, 2 (one member belongs to the opposition while the other gives his support to the government); Catholic People's Party, 1 (opposition); Curaçao Independent Party, 1 (opposition); Aruba National Union, 1 (opposition); Bonaire Progressive Party, 1 (government party); Windward Island Progressive Party, 1 (government party).

According to the votes brought out in the local councils-election of 1955 the largest parties in Curaçao and in Aruba are respectively the Democratic Party and the Aruba Patriotic Party.

The Council of Advise — Raad van Advies — appointed and presided over by the Governor, is composed of a deputy chairman and at least four other members and is consulted on all legislative matters. Generally the Council is presided over by the deputy chairman. The Council may also be asked for advise by the Governor on all matters of common or special interest. Finally, it has the authority to make recommendations to the Governor concerning matters of general interest for the Kingdom or for the Netherlands Antilles.

The *Judiciary* in the Netherlands Antilles is independent. The highest judicial body is the Court of Justice; its principal task is to ensure proper application of the law. It also acts as Court of Appeal. Lower judicial bodies are the Courts in First Instance (Cantonal

Courts). This Court is formed by a single judge, while the Court of Justice is constituted of 5 judges. All judges are members of the Court of Justice. The judges are appointed for life by the Queen. At the age of 60 years they have to retire.

Local Government

The Netherlands Antilles consist of four island-territories. Each island-territory has its own representative body, the Island Council. The members are elected for 4 years, directly from the Netherlands inhabitants of the island-territory who are 23 years of age. The electoral register is the same as for the "Staten", the central Legislative Council. The number of members varies. The Island Councils of Curaçao and Aruba consist of 21 members; the Island Council of Bonaire consists of 9 members and the Island Council of the Windward Islands consists of 15 members (each of the islands St. Martin, Saba, and St. Eustatius electing 5 members).

The Island Council has the right to issue by-laws concerning local affairs. Each island-territory is autonomous with regard to its communal interests.

The "Island Ordinance" of 1951 specifies what does not belong to the autonomous sphere of the island-territories. For instance the legislation regarding certain types of taxes, matters concerning Police, the Postal organisation, Banking, Monetary system, etc. etc.

The Island Council elects the Deputies who together with the „Gezaghebber" (Lieutenant Governor) form the Executive Council of the island-territory. This Executive Body is named "Bestuurs-college". The Executive Council of the island-territory is charged with the day-to-day administration and the enforcement of law.

The "Gezaghebber" (Lieutenant Governor) is appointed by the Queen for 6 years.

He presides over the Island Council in an advisory capacity but as president of the local Executive Council he has a deciding vote. In maintaining public order, the "Gezaghebber" acts as the chief of police.

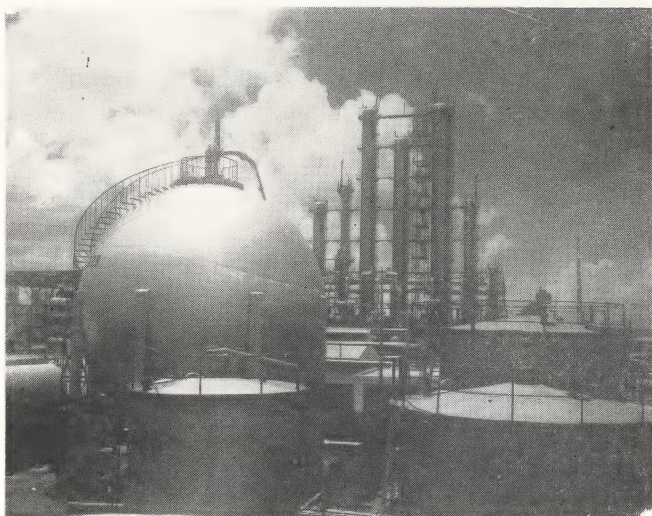
THE ECONOMIC STRUCTURE

The sources of existence are:

INDUSTRY

The oil-refining industry

The main source on which the prosperity of the Netherlands Antilles is based is the oil refining in Curaçao by the Curaçao Petroleum Industry Company (C.P.I.M.), a subsidiary of the Royal Dutch Shell Group and in Aruba by the Lago Oil and Transport Co., an affiliation of the Standard Oil Co. of New Jersey. It may be said, that the history of the economic development of both these islands is in fact the history of these two refineries. Established respectively



A new Alkylate Unit has recently been constructed at the C.P.I.M. refinery.

in 1916 and in 1929 the C.P.I.M. and the LAGO today are among the largest refineries in the world. The crude oil refined at these refineries is chiefly obtained from Venezuela, although the Curaçao

refinery also obtains a small amount from Colombia. In large tankers the crude oil is transported to Aruba and Curaçao.

On January 1st, 1957 10,906 labourers were employed at the C.P.I.M. and the crude-oil transporting company, the Curaçao Shipping Company (C.S.M.). On the same date the Lago Oil and Transport Co. had on its payrolls 6,297 labourers. This implies that about 30 % of the labour force in Curaçao and 40 % of that in Aruba are directly employed in oil refining.



At one of the gates giving entrance to the C.P.I.M. refinery.

In 1956 the C.P.I.M./C.S.M. paid for wages, local purchases contract works, etc. a sum of NA.fl. 76,000,000 (about \$ 40,000,000). In the same year the Aruba refinery paid NA.fl. 49,500,000 (about \$ 26,000,000) in wages.

The petroleum imports and exports were in 1956:

Imports (in 1000 kg gross)		Exports (in 1000 kg gross)	
Aruba 25,351,815	Aruba 22,768,755
Curaçao 22,123,812	Curaçao 18,394,281

Though LAGO normally operates on the basis of a throughput of about 440,000 barrels a day, it has a capacity of 500,000 barrels a day. The C.P.I.M. has a daily throughput of about 264,000 barrels.

The main products are: fuel oils, motor fuel and distilled fuel oils.



A LAGO tanker with crude oil is tied up at the pier of San Nicolas.

All these refineries have extensive bunkering facilities for a large number of freight and tourist ships.

Many other small enterprises in Aruba and Curaçao are largely dependent upon the oil refinery industry.

Due to the presence of the oil refineries in Aruba and Curaçao the standard of living in the Netherlands Antilles is higher than anywhere else in the Caribbean area.

Although this industry brought prosperity for the population of Curaçao and Aruba, it is evident that the base of this prosperity cannot be considered very ample. This dependence on only a single industry led the Central Government as well as the Island Governments of Curaçao and Aruba to do all that is possible in attracting



The LAGO is aiming at the highest possible safety for its workers.

more industries and hotels and to stimulate tourism by granting tax-holidays and by establishing free trade zones on both islands.

The "tax-climate" in the Netherlands Antilles was therefore made one of the mildest ones of the world.

Tourist-industry

On all the islands of the Netherlands Antilles endeavors are made to extend the tourist-industry. In Curaçao, a large, modern hotel, named "Hotel El Curaçao Intercontinental" built with American and Antillian capital has recently been inaugurated. It is entirely



Hotel El Curaçao Intercontinental in the historical Waterfort at Willemstad looking at the blue Caribbean Sea.

air-conditioned and consists of 124 rooms, all with a beautiful view on the blue Caribbean. Several attractions, as a swimming pool, and a casino, make this luxurious hotel that has been built in the historical "Waterfort" one of the best hotels in the Caribbean area. It costed about US \$ 2,750,000.

In Aruba another new luxury hotel, "Aruba Caribbean Hotel" is under construction. As in the case with "Hotel El Curaçao Intercontinental" this hotel is also a joint government-private enterprise and will cost about US \$ 3,000,000. The "Aruba Caribbean Hotel"

will be situated at the smooth clean Palm Beach along the Caribbean coast and will be completed in 1958.

The Boulevard leading to the beautiful Palm Beach where the new Aruba Caribbean Hotel is being constructed.



In St. Martin (Netherlands part) a new hotel, named "Little Bay Hotel", was completed in 1955.



Little Bay Hotel.

In Bonaire the "Zeebad Hotel Bonaire" situated directly on the beautiful Kralendijk Bay has been modernized in 1955.

Zeebad Hotel Bonaire



Curaçao and Aruba offer outstanding shopping values because of the extremely low custom duties. To the tourists these islands are the most moneywise area's in the Caribbean.

Shipbuilding and repairing

Curaçao has two dry docks that can be classified as being among the best equipped in the Caribbean area. A great many ships are repaired every year in Curaçao.



Ships under repair in one of the drydocks at Curaçao.

Clothing factory

In Bonaire there is a small clothing factory that gives work to several hundreds of girls.

Chocolate factory

Curaçao has a factory engaged in the manufacture of chocolate bonbons, caramels, etc. etc.

Other general industries include woodworking, drums, building, liquor distilling, furniture, printing and non-alcoholic beverages.

MINING

Phosphate in Curaçao is the only important natural product of the Netherlands Antilles. It is mined at Sta. Barbara by the Curaçao Mining Corporation, an English and Dutch Corporation. In 1956 Curaçao's annual phosphate export to the United States and Canada amounted to about 99,000 and 10,000 long tons (of 2,240 pounds). The production of crushed limestone for local consumption amounted to about 28,000 cubic meters.

Salt is gained from the saltpans in Bonaire.

FISHERIES

About 400 native fishing boats of the smallest type are employed in fishing but the supply is insufficient for the local market. Fresh fish is also supplied by Venezuelan fishing boats. A considerable amount of fish and fishproducts is imported in the Netherlands Antilles.

AGRICULTURE

Because of the rocky surface in Aruba and Curaçao agriculture is nearly absent on these islands. On the other islands agriculture is done on a small scale. Aruba and Bonaire are producing a product of world reputation, named aloes. This product gives the aloe resin, that is exported to be refined in pharmaceutical enterprises. A well known product of Curaçao that is exported is orange peel. On the Windward Islands sweet potatoes and yams are grown. On all islands small quantities of assorted vegetables are produced.

Most of the food is imported.

In Aruba a new type of farming is being introduced in the shape of the hydroponics farm. The construction of this farm is near completion.

FOREIGN TRADE

The foreign trade in the Netherlands Antilles is dominated by petroleum shipments. In fact about 87 % of the country's total imports in 1956 was crude petroleum. The export of petroleum refinery products in 1956 amounted to about 99 % of total export.

The following index gives a survey of the principal countries with which the Netherlands Antilles trade:

Countries of Origin	Import (1955) Value in million of N.A. guilders	Import (1956)
Venezuela	1,220	1,227
United States	120	151
Columbia	55	61
United Kingdom	60	74
The Netherlands	56	67
Trinidad	11	16
Germany (W)	5	8
Rest of the world	39	52
Total	1,566	1,656

Countries of Destination	Export (1955) Value in million of N.A. guilders	Export (1956)
United States	389	420
United Kingdom	150	183
Brazil	127	93
Argentina	70	91
Canada	63	73
The Netherlands	58	65
Cuba	46	61
Panama and Canal Zone	34	37
Rest of the world	567	562
Total	1,504	1,585

SHIPPING

The Netherlands Antilles' geographic advantage of being at a junction of trade routes in the Caribbean Sea made Curaçao and Aruba the largest bunkering ports on this side of the world. The bunkering facilities serve a large number of tourist and other kinds of ships.



The pontoon bridge has just opened and one of the many ships that daily call at Willemstad is entering the St. Anna-Bay.

Curaçao and Aruba are among the largest ports of the world in terms of total tonnage. The most modern port-equipment guarantees the loading and discharge of ocean-going vessels in record time.

Year	Number of ships entering				Tonnage (in million of tons)	
	Curaçao		Aruba		Curaçao	Aruba
1950	8,282	(tankers: 5,688)	6,176	(tankers: 5,345)	39.2	33.7
1951	9,219	(„ 6,410)	6,312	(„ 5,449)	46.2	35.8
1952	9,762	(„ 6,885)	6,739	(„ 5,926)	49.9	35.7
1953	8,296	(„ 5,450)	5,327	(„ 4,521)	47.1	31.2
1954	7,616	(„ 4,807)	4,500	(„ 3,710)	52.2	33.4
1955	7,104	(„ 4,317)	4,511	(„ 3,687)	52.2	40.5
1956	7,196	(„ 4,368)	4,347	(„ 3,502)	53.3	39.9

Willemstad is the principal seaport and customs port of Curaçao. Its fine natural harbor (with direct access to the sea) made up of the St. Anna Bay and the Schottegat inner harbor, forms an attraction for the visiting tourist. The refinery of the C.P.I.M. is located on the Schottegat. Other important ports of Curaçao are Caracas Bay and Bullenbay where the C.P.I.M. has bunkering facilities for very large tankers and tourist ships.



The modern harbour complex at Oranjestad, Aruba.

The most important ports in Aruba are Oranjestad and San Nicolas. San Nicolas is serving the Lago refinery.

Kralendijk is the customs port of Bonaire.



*A view on Kralendijk,
the capital town of
Bonaire.*

St. Martin has the best anchorage facilities of the three Windward Islands. As no import duties or excise taxes are levied on these islands, there are no custom formalities to fulfill at any time.



*Philipsburg, the capital
of St. Martin.*

Curaçao and Aruba have free-trade zones. Both islands have several private storage warehouses and several government bonded warehouses. In 1954 the new storage warehouses at the new \$ 6,000,000 government-owned harbour at Curaçao were finished.

Among the many shipping lines that call at Netherlands Antillean ports are the Royal Netherlands Steamship Co., Grace Line Inc., Alcoa Steamship Co., Inc., Mississippi Ship Co. (Delta Line), Harrison Line and the Moore Mac Cormick Line.



Saba the smallest island of the Netherlands Windward group.

"Statia" as St. Eustatius is know to most Caribbeans.



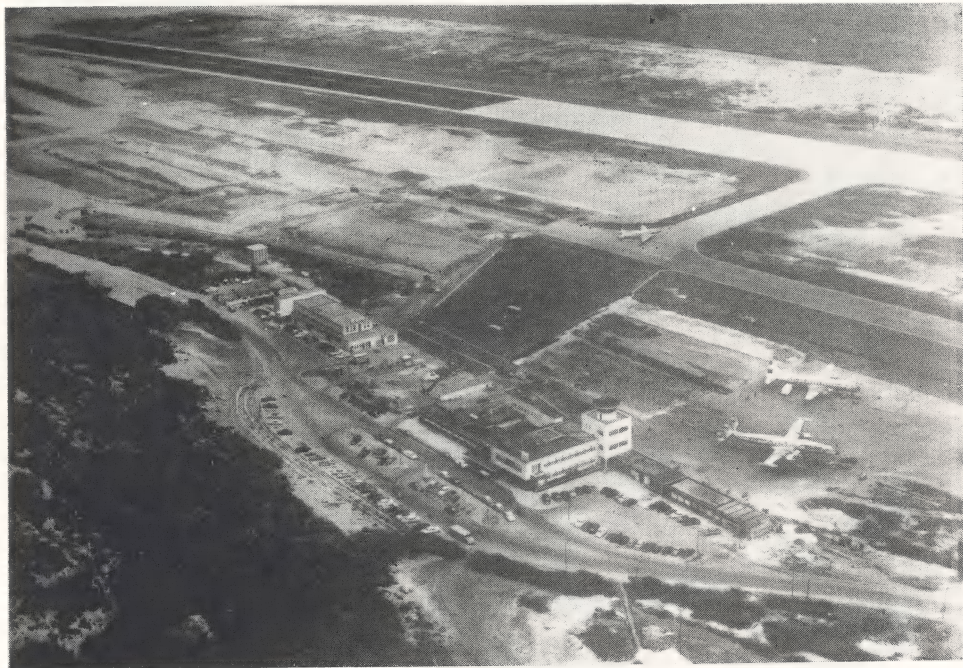
AVIATION

The Royal Dutch Airlines (K.L.M.), world's oldest commercial airline company, has its operations center in the Caribbean area in Curaçao. The K.L.M. maintains regular services to the United States, Europe, Venezuela, Surinam and other countries in Central and South America. Other airlines linking the Netherlands Antilles with

foreign countries are the Pan-American, the Linea Aeropostal Venezolana and the RANSAM, a Columbian line.

Interisland air connection is maintained by the K.L.M. There are several daily flights from Curaçao to Aruba v.v., one daily flight to Bonaire and a twice-weekly service to St. Martin.

The airports in Curaçao (Dr. Plesman Airport) and Aruba (Beatrix Airport) are among the best in this part of the world. Air-



Dr. A. Plesman Airport at Hato, Curaçao, is one of the most modern airports in the Caribbean area.

ports are also in Bonaire (Flamingo Airport) and in St. Martin (Juliana Airport). St. Eustatius has an auxiliary runway, suitable for small planes.

The facilities that are offered to the international airway system are still expanding.

POWER SUPPLY

Most of the electric power in Curaçao, Aruba and Bonaire is supplied by a privately owned power company. In addition, both refineries have their powerplants, which supply the needs of the refineries and the company-owned residential areas. In 1956 the Overseas Gas and Electric Company Inc. produced in Curaçao 50 million kilowatt-hours of electricity.

Aruba and Curaçao will have an additional amount of kilowatt capacity when the new waterplants projects of these islands are completed.

St. Martin and St. Eustatius has a limited power supply but in the proposed development program for the Windward Islands new powerplants are included.

Electric current on Curaçao is 127/220 volts, 50 cycle, single or three phase; at C.P.I.M. it is 220/380 volts, 50 cycle, single or three phase.

Electric current on Aruba is 127/220 volts, 60 cycle, single or three phase; at Lago it is 115/230 volts, 60 cycle, single phase.

On Bonaire the current is 127/220 volts, 50 cycle, single or three phase.

GAS

Gas is produced by the C.P.I.M. and supplied by the Overseas Gas and Electric Company Inc. under the trade name of "Shellane" on all islands except Aruba, where the gas is produced by the Lago and supplied by the Aruba Gas Company.

PLANS FOR FURTHER ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

As has been pointed out already the Netherlands Antilles is completely dependent on a single industry. This dependence led the Central Government as well as the Island-governments of Curaçao and Aruba to develop plans to create additional sources of prosperity.

For this purpose the Central Government made the "tax climate" in the Netherlands Antilles one of the mildest ones in the world. But also the social, economic and political factors in this

country are exceptionally favorable to investment of foreign capital. These factors are:

- a. good labor relations (generally no lost of working days because of labor disputes);
- b. a stable political development based on the democratic principles according to which the country is governed;
- c. a sound economic and financial policy by the Central Government, its primary aim being the maintenance of employment at the highest possible level. The Netherlands Antillian Government therefore accords the greatest possible freedom to business and industry without any oppressive controls and recognize the vital importance of free enterprise to the country's prosperity. Thoughts about nationalization or any other alienation of proper rights are unknown in the Netherlands Antilles.

Tax Holiday

New industries, involving an investment of at least NAfl. 100,000,— (in case of hotels NAfl. 500,000.—), i.e. enterprises whose purpose it is to conduct a (branch of) industry which did not exist in the Netherlands Antilles on January 1, 1948, are, for a period of ten to eleven years, exempt from paying the following taxes:

1. the import duties on materials and goods for the construction and the initial equipment of the premises;
2. the land tax on the premises of the enterprise;
3. the use (occupancy) tax on account of utilization of the premises of the enterprise;
4. the profit tax on profits obtained from the enterprise;
5. the income tax on proceeds from an enterprise, and on proceeds from distribution of profits.

Holding companies or investment companies, domiciled in the Netherlands Antilles, organized especially to hold securities, are subject to a tax equal to 1/10th of the normal profit tax. As the normal tax rate varies from 24 % to about 30 %, the tax reduction results in an effective tax rate of only 2.4 % to 3 %. More than

260 holding and investment companies have been incorporated in the Netherlands Antilles since 1953, when the tax rate was reduced.

Now that the Income Tax Convention of 1948 between the United States of America and the Kingdom of the Netherlands is extended to the Netherlands Antilles, one of the consequences of this agreement, of interest to foreign investors in the Netherlands Antilles, is the reduction of the withholding tax on income from U.S. securities from 30 % to 15 %; interest on bonds is completely exempt from said tax.

More liberal tax laws are being prepared e.g. a law on foreign trade companies (companies trading exclusively or nearly exclusively with foreign countries), while a law on patent holding companies has recently been approved by the Legislative Council.

Free Zones

The "Free Zones Ordinance" of 1956 made it possible that in Curaçao and Aruba free zones could be established at the splendid modern ports of these islands. In these zones the assembling or manufacturing of goods for re-export can take place with a minimum of red tape and expense.

New Water Distilling Plants

As another part of the efforts to develop the economy of this country the Island-governments of Aruba and Curaçao are building new waterplants. The Aruban project will cost about N.A.fl. 20,000,000 (approx. US\$ 10,000,000) and the one of Curaçao about N.A.fl. 12,500,000 (approx. US\$ 6,250,000). When finished the costprice of the water will be considerable reduced, while the produced electricity will be sold to the private electricity companies. The Aruban project also includes the production of chemicals, that will be sold to a Chemical Company which will be established in Aruba.

For the financing of these and other projects the Central Government will contract short-termed loans up to an amount of US\$ 10,000,000 guaranteed by the Netherlands Government. After two years the short-termed loans will be converted into long-termed

loans. Aruba and Curaçao will be able to contract loans with the Central Government up to an amount of US\$ 6,000,000 and US\$ 4,000,000 respectively under the same conditions as the Central



World's largest water distilling plant under construction in Aruba.

Government received the money. Part of the interest to be paid will be granted by the Netherlands as a token of assistance in the economic development of these islands.

Other projects

Both islands have also projects for the building of low-cost workmen houses, expanding of the airports, while Aruba has a hydroponics farm under construction.

Economic uplift smaller islands

The Central Government has also worked out plans for the economic uplift of Bonaire and the Windward Islands. Until now these islands have not had any significant economic development.

Annually the Central Government is supporting these islands with about N.A.fl. 2,300,000 (approx. US\$ 1,150,000). The economic development program includes the development of the tourist industry (the construction of hotels, new water and electric plants, etc. etc.), the improvement of Agriculture, Cattle-raising and Fisheries, and the raising of educational and social standards. The program will be carried out with technical assistance of the Netherlands Government.

FINANCE

Currency

The monetary unit of the Netherlands Antilles is the "gulden" (guilder or florin) equivalent tot 100 cents. The official rate of exchange is: US \$ bills (greenbacks) and Travelers Checks: NAfl. 1.865 per US\$; US bankers' drafts NAfl. 1.885 per US\$.

The Netherlands Antilles florin, usually abbreviated as "NAfl." is US\$ 0.5305. The paper currency consists of notes of the following denominations: 2.50, 5, 10, 25, 50, 100, 250 and 500 guilders. Coins are minted in the following denominations: silver coins of 10 and 25 cents, 1 guilder and 2½ guilders, square nickels (5 c) and copper coins of 1 and 2½ cents.

It may be mentioned that the Netherlands Antillian guilder (equivalent to about 2 Dutch guilders) is covered for more than 100 percent by gold and foreign exchange, convertible in gold.

The revenue and expenditure were:

(1 = 1 million Antill. guilders)	REVENUE			EXPENDITURE		
	1955*)	1956*)	1957*)	1955*)	1956*)	1957*)
Central Budget	34.0	36.0	44.4	33.9	35.8	44.4
Budget of Curaçao	26.5	26.4	34.6	26.5	26.4	34.6
Budget of Aruba	19.7	13.9	13.0	19.7	13.9	13.0

*) Estimates

Banking

The Curaçao Bank is a government institution and has the sole right of issuing bank-notes. It is also authorized to carry on the usual banking operations. The note-circulation on the 1st of January 1957 amounted to 44,104,425 Antillian guilders. The capital of the Curaçao Bank amounts to 450,000 Antillian guilders.

There are eight private banks in Curaçao and Aruba, six of which are commercial banks. The other two are a Saving and Pawning Bank and a Mortgage Bank.

The Government owns a Construction Credit Bank. The purpose of this bank is to make loans to those who wish to build or repairs their own house but lacks the full necessary capital.



At the background the "Waaigat", an inner-bay of Willemstad with the Head Postoffice at the right.

Post

For the year 1956 the Government Post Office Savings Bank had deposits of NAfl. 4,062,000 and withdrawals of NAfl. 3,341,000.

There are 5 post offices in the Netherlands Antilles. The Head Office is established at Willemstad, Curaçao.

In the financial year 1956, the postal revenues amounted to NAfl. 1,657,000 and the expenditure to NAfl. 1,574,000. Most letter mail is carried by air at normal postage rates.

SOCIAL WELFARE, LABOUR AND PUBLIC HEALTH

There are several social acts in the Netherlands Antilles which provide social security for all labourers. The most important ones are:

Accidents Insurance Act of 1936

All employees are compulsory insured against accidents by their employers. The premium which is fully paid by the employer depends on the basis of the risk involved. Benefits are paid in case of temporary or permanent disability. In fatal cases allowances are paid to the dependants. This act also provides for free medical and hospital treatment.

Sickness Insurance Act of 1936

All employees with an income of less than N.A.fl. 20.— a day are compulsory insured against sickness. The premium which is fully paid by the employer is yearly fixed by the government. In case of sickness the employee is entitled to 70 % of his normal wages for a maximum period of one year. In case of hospital treatment the percentage of the wages paid out to him is 50 %.

Labour Act of 1952

This act regulates the conditions of employment and working hours. Normal working time in enterprises is fixed at 8 hours a day

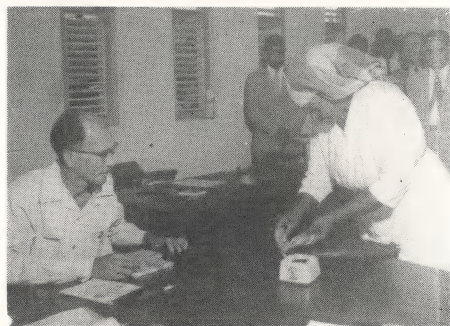
and 45 hours a week. In some cases it is allowed to work maximal 8½ hours a day and 48 hours a week. Labouring by children, night-labour and work of a dangerous nature by women and young people is generally prohibited.

Vacation Act of 1949

Every employee is entitled to an annual vacation of two weeks with pay.

Old-Age Pension Act of 1955

Old-age pensions were introduced in 1955 and are paid to Netherlands Antillian citizens of Dutch nationality as from 60 years of age or married couples when the man has reached that age, provided their income does not exceed a certain amount. Old-age pensioners should have been residing at least five years in the Netherlands Antilles. The pension is fixed at N.A.fl. 50.— a month



The Old-Age Pension is being paid out.

for unmarried people and N.A.fl. 80.— a month for a married couple. These amounts are however only paid in the islands of Curaçao and Aruba. The pensions paid in Bonaire and the Windward Islands of the Netherlands Antilles are N.A.fl. 30.— a month for unmarried

people and N.A.fl. 50.— a month for a married couple. Half of the expenses are covered by a special tax on government lottery tickets.



A daily sight; government-lottery tickets being sold. Half of the expenses of the Old-Age Pension is covered by a special tax on these tickets.

Minimum Wage Act of 1946

Minimum wages are fixed by the government only for employees working in shops and stores.

Wages in the oil industry vary from N.A.fl. 1.20 per hour to N.A.fl. 1.29 per hour for unskilled labour. For skilled labourers wages range from N.A.fl. 1.26 per hour to N.A.fl. 2.75 per hour. Other employers generally follow the general pattern set by the oil industries. Wages move proportionally with the cost of living.

Workmen' houses

After World War II some 2000 houses have been built in Aruba and Curaçao for the inhabitants with a lower income. The local government of Curaçao has now started building another 500 of these

houses. Nice labourers' districts have arisen from these building projects with modern schools, churches, shops, recreation-parks, etc.



A complex of modern low-cost workmen' houses built by the government.

Good labor relations

As has been pointed out in a previous section of this booklet the relations between employers and labourers are generally good. Strikes in this country are practically unknown and generally no lost of working days because of labor disputes.

Trade Unions

An important part of the labourers is organized in trade unions. The largest single union is the government officials union. The largest federation is the "Federation of Curaçao Workers Trade Unions".

Public health

The public health in the Netherlands Antilles is very good for a tropical country. First-class medical attention is the reason why the death rate has been so low in this country (4.8 per thousand).

Generally the Netherlands Antillian has a good physical condition which minimizes illness.

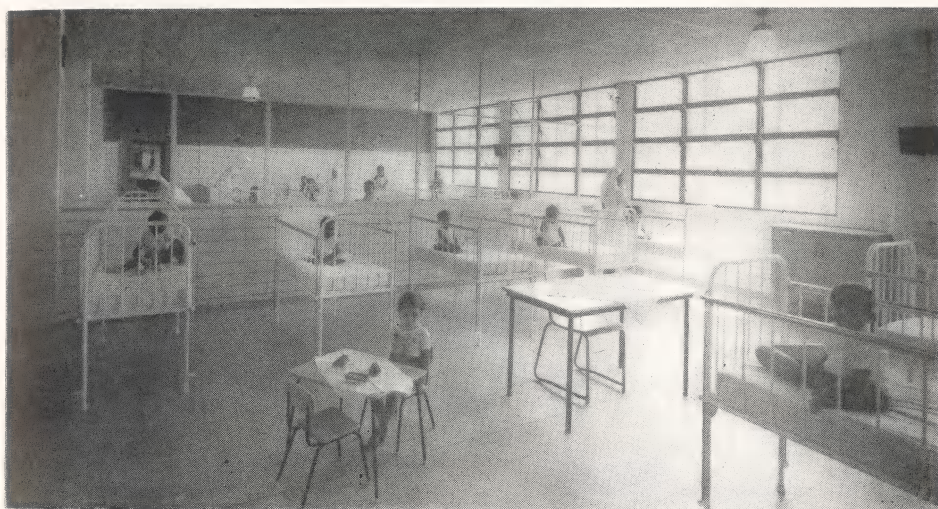
The Central Inspection of Public Health and the island-government public health departments are very active.



Children of different ages are being vaccinated cost-free with Salk vaccin against poliomyelitis.

The C.P.I.M. and the LAGO have their own medical service including a hospital equipped with the most modern instruments.

There are two more large hospitals in the Netherlands Antilles,



A newly build children' clinic at the St. Elisabeth Hospital

one in Curaçao (the St. Elisabeth's Hospital) and one in Aruba (the San Pedro Hospital) both owned by the Roman Catholic Mission.

The island government of Curaçao has planned the building of a new government-owned hospital.

Each of the other islands has a small hospital.

The Central Government owns two modern-equipped laboratories. Medical centers have risen in various parts of Aruba and Curaçao and provide the common population with free medical care and advice.

There are various private organizations working in the field of public health and subsidized by the island governments.

EDUCATION, CULTURAL ACTIVITY AND RELIGION

Education

Although there does not exist compulsory schooling in the Netherlands Antilles illiteracy is practically unknown. This is largely due to the excellent educational system.

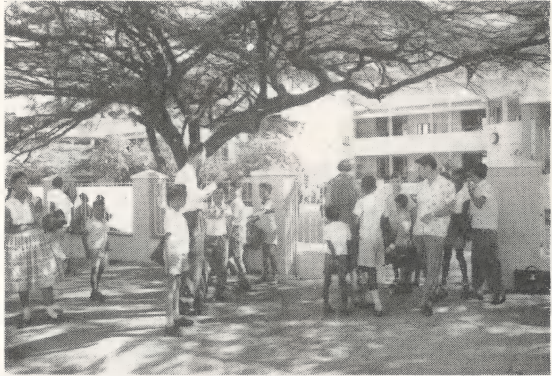
The following statistics indicate how many teachers and pupils are involved in each branch of education (1956) :

	Number	Teaching staff	Pupils
Kindergartens:			
Public (governmental)	15	44	1,100
Private	45	160	5,226
Elementary schools: ¹⁾			
Public (governmental)	22	201	5,922
Private	86	912	29,610
Secondary schools: ²⁾			
Public (governmental)	1	20	208
Private	2	48	403
Technical schools:			
Public	2	20	390
Private	2	21	409
Total	175	1,426	43,268

¹⁾ 46 of these elementary schools with a total amount of 3000 pupils also train for an "Advanced Elementary School Certificate".

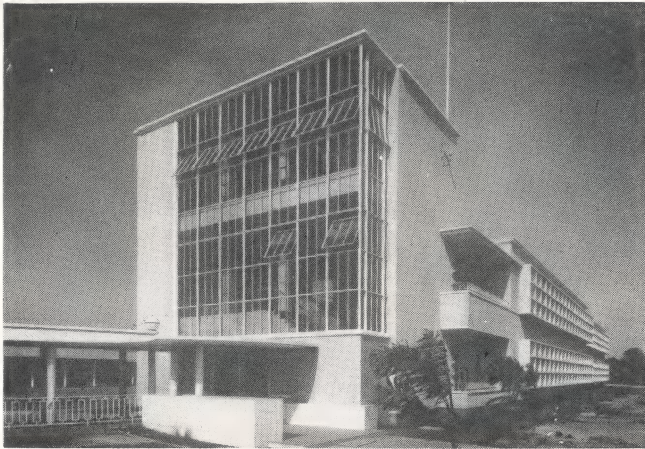
²⁾ Some of these schools also serve as training colleges for teachers.

There are courses for machine-typing and shorthand-typing and for the training of government officials. The Netherlands Antillians



The school bell has just rung.

are adaptable to foreign languages, especially to English and Spanish, the study of which is taken very seriously even in elementary education. This widespread knowledge of foreign languages is cer-



The Peter Stuyvesant College, one of the secondary schools in Curaçao.

tainly advantageously to the development of the tourist-industry in the Netherlands Antilles. Many a foreign visitor has been surprised

to find many shop assistants, taxidrivers and even workmen not only understand his language, but, often enough, speak it quite well. Total expenditure on education in the Netherlands Antilles amounts to about 50 % of the budget of Curaçao and about 30 % of that of Aruba.

Most schools in the Netherlands Antilles are private, the majority of which is led by the Roman Catholic Mission. There are also Protestant schools. The costs of public and private schools devolve on the island-territory where the schools are established.

Every year scholarships are granted by the Central and Local Governments to Antillian boys and girls to continue their study in



Antillian boys and girls leaving for the Netherlands with a scholarship of the Central and local governments.

the Netherlands. Hundreds of Netherlands Antillians are studying at Universities in the Netherlands or are attending training courses for teachers, midwives, nurses, social workers, accountants, and other professions.

Cultural activity

Curacao has a very interesting *Museum* housed in a building which is a typical example of old Dutch architecture. Several exhibitions of paintings of Antillian and foreign artists have been held during the past years and it is good to see that the local interest for the work of this Museum is increasing.

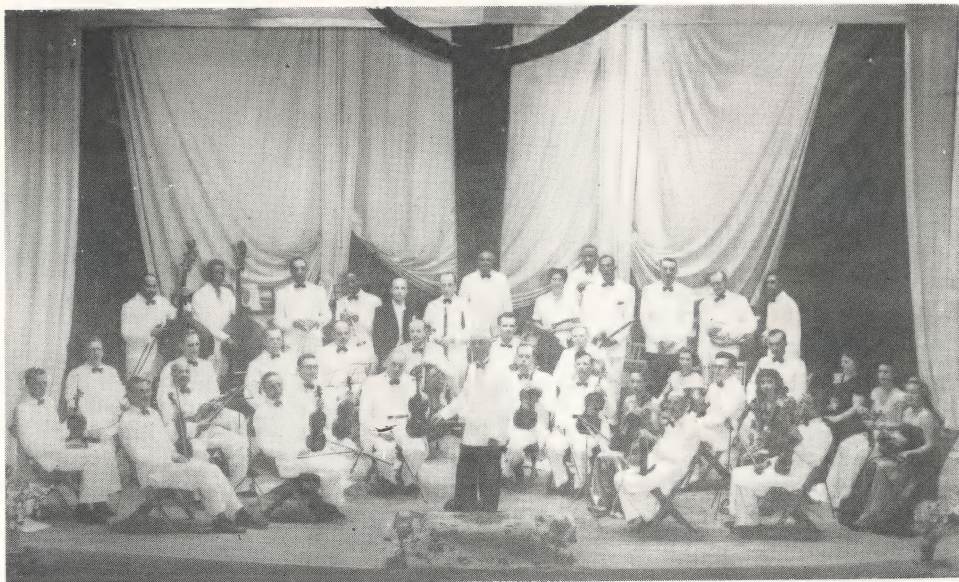
The Museum is subsidized by the government.



The Curacao Museum.

Curacao and Aruba have their *Philharmonic orchestras* and every year a number of concerts are given. Several foreign music-artists annually make their appearance in the Netherlands Antilles.

In Aruba there is a public school of music financially supported by the island government. The building of an Art Theatre on the same island will soon be started.



The Curaçao Philharmonic Orchestra.

There are some amateur theatrical societies.

Cultural activity in the Netherlands Antilles is stimulated by various cultural societies among which the Cultural Centrum of Aruba, the Cultural Centrum of Curaçao and the Curaçao Art Circle take an important place.

In several ways the Central and island governments have supported the further development of the cultural life in Netherlands Antilles. A number of cultural societies has been granted a yearly subsidy.

Curaçao and Aruba have very well-equipped government libraries. In Curaçao there is also a library of the Cultural Centrum of Curaçao equipped with only scientific books.

Religion

Of the inhabitants professing a religion the majority are Roman Catholic. The clerical head of the Roman Catholic Community is the Apostolic Vicar.



*A Roman Catholic Church in
Willemstad.*

The most important Protestant Communities in the Netherlands Antilles are:

1. The United Protestant Community;
2. The Protestant Community;
3. The Reformed Protestant Community;
4. The Evangelical Community;
5. The Methodist Community;
6. The Anglican Community;
7. The Apostolic Faith Society.

There are two Jewish Communities in the Netherlands Antilles. the Netherlands Portuguese Jewish Community and the Netherlands Reformed Jewish Community.

In Curaçao the Salvation Army operates a Seamen's Home. There is also a Norwegian Seamen's Church and a Catholic Seamen's Home in Curaçao.

There is full religious liberty, and the income of the ministers of

all denominations is paid from the national treasury. The Government does not interfere in any way with the internal affairs of either Catholic or Protestant Churches.



*The old Protestant Church in
Fort Amsterdam at Willem-
stad.*



A Jewish Synagogue.

TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS

Transportation

All islands have a good system of all-weather roads. The length of the highway of the islands is in km: Curaçao 365, Aruba 236 (excl. the roads on the territory of the Lago Oil & Transport Co. Ltd.), Bonaire 60, St. Martin 27, Saba 7, St. Eustatius 4. All roads are suitable for automobile traffic.



An example of modern road-building.

Curaçao has about 12,384 autos and trucks; Aruba about 7,000; Bonaire 247. The Windward Islands have proportionally smaller numbers.

There are no railways in the islands.

Communication

The internal telecommunications-system is owned and operated by the Government Radio and Telegraph Service, which is also conducting the overseas radio-telegraph and radio-telephone services.

External radio-telegraph services are also maintained by the All American Cables & Radio Inc.

In the financial year of 1956 the revenues of the Government Radio and Telegraph Service amounted to N.A.fl. 1,650,000 and the expenditure to N.A.fl. 1,730,000.

Each island-territory has its own government-operated Telephone Service. Only Curaçao and Aruba has an automatic dial telephone system. The number of telephones in Curaçao in January 1957 were 4,388 and in Aruba 1,614. In addition the two Oilcompanies have their own private systems, with interconnections to the public system.

In many districts there are street-telephones for free use by the public.

Curaçao has four broadcasting stations and Aruba two. They are all long wave stations. The CUROM (the Curaçao Broadcasting System) is the only one that is subsidized by the Central Government.

Although no television station has yet been established in the Netherlands a great number of television sets has recently been purchased to receive programs of the television station of Radio Caracas relayed by a relay-station in Coro (Venezuela).

Press

There are four daily papers printed in Curaçao with estimated total circulation of 17,000 readers, among which also readers of Aruba and the other islands. Two daily papers are printed in Aruba with a estimated total circulation of 3,000.

Four of the 6 daily papers are printed in Dutch, two in Spanish combined with Papiamento. There are some weekly papers printed in Dutch, Papiamento and English.

HOTELS

Here follows a survey of the best hotels in the Netherlands Antilles:

The hotel rates quoted per person per day refer to rooms with private bath. Double occupancy rates are usually lower. The following abbreviations are used: A.P.: American Plan (three meals

included); C.P.: Continental Plan (room with complete breakfast); E.P.: European Plan (room only); Aircon: Airconditioned rooms available at slightly higher rate.

Curaçao

Hotel El Curaçao Intercontinental: Waterfort, facing the Caribbean Sea, swimming pool, 124 rooms. Only E.P.: \$ 13—\$16 (season price) and \$ 11—\$ 14 (off-season price).

Hotel Americano: Brionplein, facing harbor and pontoon bridge, 45 rooms. A.P.: \$ 12.00; C.P.: \$ 8.00 Aircon.

Hotel Avila: Penstraat, $\frac{3}{4}$ mile E. of city center. Salt water swimming pool, 45 rooms. A.P.: \$ 11.00; C.P.: \$ 8.50 (summer rates). Aircon.

Hotel Bellevue: Parera, overlooking Schottegat Bay, tennis court, 42 rooms and suites. A.P.: \$ 7.00—\$ 8.50; C.P.: \$ 4.50—\$ 6.25.

Park Hotel: Frederikstraat (center of Otrabanda section (West), 38 rooms. A.P.: \$ 9.50. C.P.: \$ 5.50. Aircon.

Piscadera Bay Club: At Piscadera Bay and beach: $1\frac{1}{2}$ mile west of city, 68 rooms and suites. C.P. only: \$ 9.75—\$ 13.75. Aircon.

K.L.M. Hotel Hato: Near Airport primarily for air passengers, 20 rooms. C.P. only: \$ 6.75.

Hotel San Marco: Columbusstraat, in center of business district, 25 rooms. A.P.: \$ 11.00. C.P.: \$ 8.00. Aircon.

Aruba

Strand Hotel: Overlooking Caribbean, half way airport and Oranjestad, 36 rooms. A.P.: \$ 12.50. C.P.: \$ 8.50. Aircon.

Scala: In center of city (Oranjestad), 17 rooms. A.P.: \$ 11.00. C.P.: \$ 6.75. Aircon.

Hotel Marchena: In center of San Nicolas, 24 rooms. A.P.: \$ 10.50.
E.P.: \$ 6.75.

Bonaire

Hotel Zeebad: Half way between Kralendijk and airport, overlooking the Kralendijk Bay. A.P.: \$ 7.50. Special rates for children.

St. Martin

Hotel Little Bay: Situated on Little Bay. A.P.: \$ 12.— (summer rate). The winter rate is about 25 % to 30 % higher.

Pasangrahan: The former Government Guesthouse. A.P. \$ 10.00—
\$ 12.00.

Lido Guesthouse: Facing Great Bay, 5 rooms. A.P.: \$ 8.50—\$ 10.50.

Saba

Government Guesthouse in The Bottom. A.P.: \$ 5.30.

St. Eustatius

Government Guesthouse in Oranjestad. A.P.: \$ 5.30.

Entry Requirements

A. Transit Stay

Transit passengers, that is travelers who continue their trip with the same vessel or plane, or stay on the island for 24 hours or less, do not require any documents. The latter category, however, should have same proof of identity.

B. Temporary Stay

1. Tourists from the U.S.A. do not need a passport but may suffice with:
 - a. A birth certificate or an affidavit of birth if born in the United States.

- b. Naturalization certificate if naturalized U.S. citizen.
 - c. A reentry permit or a "non-quota" immigration visa if foreigner permanently residing in the United States.
2. Tourists from other countries must have a valid passport and surrender two passport photos.
 3. All temporary visitors must be in possession of a vaccination certificate not older than three years and a through or return ticket to a destination outside the territory.

Information regarding the several possibilities for foreign visitors may be obtained from the Tourist-offices on the different islands or from the Netherlands West Indies Tourist Bureau, 475 Fifth Avenue, New York 17 N.Y., U.S.A.



CONTENTS

	Page
The Territory, Geography, Climate, Area and Population of the Netherlands Antilles	5
History, Political Evolution and Government	12
The Economic Structure	27
Finance	45
Social Welfare, Labour and Public Health	47
Education, Cultural Activity and Religion	52
Transportation and Communications	59
Hotels	60

